

# Brief synopsis of 're-imagining democracy' Seminar

As part of ERI Sustainability Seminar Series/25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019-Lee Building, UCC-Cork

## Key Messages from the Speaker

- Beyond majority rule are decisions justifiable to those affected?
- Deliberative democracy does not seek to replace existing democratic institutions but to provide a space for inclusive respectful dialogue and decisions. It may reinforce legitimacy, particularly in areas which are contentious or complex.
- Many of the Irish Citizens' Assembly (CA) ambitious recommendations on climate secured cross party support in the Jt. Oireachtas Committee set up to review them. Official Government response remains to be seen
- There is a need for a variety of 'deliberative moments' (such as the CA) within our democratic system to ensure decisions that are more informed, acceptable and more likely to be implemented

## Emerging Discussion points from Audience

- Ensuring inclusion and the quality of the discussion and presentations at these fora is very important
- Irish work on deliberative democracy processes has the potential to offer international leadership. In particular it has the potential to develop a inclusive strategy for climate action based on democratic innovations rather than on technological innovations alone.
- There may be a challenge in linking these processes with other more radical forums and ideas. Yet all should co-exist within a wider deliberative system where each acts as a check and a balance on the other.

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